GRAMMAR

1 **a** Choose the correct options to complete the extracts.

a It *would / wouldn't* reduce crime if we used this type of punishment more.

b If this type of punishment were more common, we *might / might not* need so many prisons.

c If he had reported the crime, the boy *would / wouldn't* have ended up with a criminal record, which *could / couldn't* have affected him for the rest of his life.

If Sentences: Imagined Situations (1)

We can use *if* + past simple or past perfect to describe imagined situations.

a) Use *if* + past simple to describe situations in the (1) ..... or (2) ..... .

If we used this punishment more frequently... (but we don't)

b) Use *if* + past perfect to describe situations in the (3) ..... .

If he had reported the boy to the police... (but he didn't)

Note: Some people prefer to use *were* instead of *was* with *I/he/she/it* to describe an imagined situation in the present or future. *Were* is more formal than *was*:

If he were older, he would get a prison sentence.

Describing imagined consequences

To describe the consequence of the imagined situation, we use the modal verbs *would*, *could* or *might*.

a) To talk about an imagined consequence in the present or future, we use *would/could*, etc., + (4) ..... .

b) To talk about an imagined consequence in the past, we use *would/could*, etc., + (5) ..... .

Would, could or *might*?

We use (6) ..... to say that this is the definite consequence of the imagined situation.

We use (7) ..... or (8) ..... to say that the consequence is possible, but not definite:

He would have ended up with a criminal record, which could have affected him for the rest of his life.